

Message Text

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21

ACTION PC-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 MED-03 MMO-04 FBOE-00 /019 W

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R 121527Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7516W

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2501

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FOR AF/EX AND M/MED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AMED, IV

SUBJECT: MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR PC/IC

REF: STATE 055079

1. WHILE WE SHALL MISS DR. JOHNSON, I RECOGNIZE NEED FOR PCMO IN NIGER AND MALI, AND AGREE THAT EXPERIENCED REGISTERED NURSE WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES IN IVORY COAST. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MEDICAL SERVICES BOTH TO PEACE CORPS AND TO EMBASSY COULD BE IMPROVED AND MADE MORE EFFICIENT BY CO LOCATING MEDICAL UNITS IN THE CHANCERY.

2. RMO WITH TWO LOCAL ASSISTANTS PROVIDES MEDICAL SERVICE TO EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, AND HAS FREQUENTLY FILLED IN FOR PC IN DR. JOHNSON'S ABSENCE. DR. JOHNSON HAS SIMILARLY HELPED EMBASSY WHEN RMO OUT OF COUNTRY. VIEW TRANSFER OF SOME FUNCTIONS TO OTHER OFFICES, WE SHOULD SOON HAVE AMPLE AND ATTRACTIVE SPACE IN CHANCERY FOR RMO AND PC MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES. MOVE OF PC MEDICAL UNIT SHOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL RENT SAVINGS FOR PC/IC, AND PROVIDE BETTER MEDICAL SERVICES FOR BOTH PC AND EMBASSY.

3. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO IMPINGE ON REGISTERED NURSE'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO PC, OR MAKE HER SUBORDINATE TO RMO. COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM, HOWEVER, AND COMBINATION OF FACILITIES

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APPEAR FROM EMBASSY'S VANTAGE POINT TO BE IN EVERYONE'S BEST

INTEREST.

4. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, WHO WILL SHORTLY LEAVE ABIDJAN, HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL:

A. DR. JOHNSON'S TRANSFER IS NOT ENTIRELY SETTLED TO HIS SATISFACTION.

B. PC IS SEEKING NEW OFFICE SPACE.

C. PCV'S COME TO PC HEADQUARTERS WITH PROBLEMS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE MEDICAL, AND IT USEFUL TO HAVE STAFF AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL TOGETHER.

5. PCD AGREES HOWEVER THAT PROPOSAL WOULD INVOLVE SAVINGS AND GREATER EFFICIENCY, AND RECOMMENDS CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO OFFICES.

6. REQUEST PEACE CORPS AND AF/EX VIEWS. NURSE SHOULD ARRIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND IDEALLY SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST BRIEF OVERLAP WITH DR. JOHNSON. EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES, EMBASSY RMO WITHOUT PC NURSE, CANNOT BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE BOTH MISSION AND PEACE CORPS. SMITH

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